

the direction of President Sandy Baldwin and Chief Executive Officer Lloyd Ward, the U.S. Olympic Committee has offered their incredible support for these games.

I also pay tribute to the Salt Lake Organizing Committee, SLOC, for taking the challenge to improve on the success of the Utah Winter Olympics by organizing and carrying out the 2002 Paralympic Winter Games. Nancy Gonsalves, who has been at the head of this venture for the Salt Lake Organizing Committee, is to be commended.

My colleagues might be interested to learn that this was the first time the Paralympic Winter Games have been held in the United States. It was also the first time a local organizing committee assumed the responsibility for the organization, acquiring of sponsors, and staging of the games. The contributions of the sponsors, the volunteers, and SLOC were essential to the success of the Salt Lake 2002 Winter Paralympic Games. The commitment of the people in Salt Lake City and the great state of Utah deserve our appreciation and recognition.

In addition, I wish to give special recognition to the national media for the attention they gave to the Paralympic Winter Games. The purpose of the 2002 Paralympic Winter Games, the events, and the individual stories of the athletes were covered more extensively by the national and international media than in any previous Paralympic games. This coverage suggests that we, as a society, not only recognize outstanding physical performance requiring concentration, dedication, and discipline, but, in addition, we recognize the challenges that must be accommodated by people with disabilities. These Paralympic Games proved that there is no limit to what an individual can accomplish.

The Salt Lake 2002 Paralympic Winter Games enriched the lives of thousands of people with disabilities and their families. Even more important, they enriched the lives of those of us fortunate enough to live free of disability. I wish to commend the dedication and commitment of the athletes, their families, their trainers, the Salt Lake Organizing Committee, and the citizens of the great State of Utah.

Mr. BENNETT. Mr. President, I rise today to join my colleague from Utah in recognizing the outstanding success of the Salt Lake 2002 Paralympic Winter Games. Ten days after the conclusion of the Winter Olympic Games, another group of elite athletes from around the world gathered in Salt Lake City to push the limits of physical achievement. These athletes, along with their coaches, trainers, families, and many volunteers, made the 2002 Paralympic Winter Games a remarkable 10-day event.

The paralympic movement began in 1948, when Sir Ludwig Guttmann organized a sports competition for World War II veterans with spinal cord injuries in Stoke Mandeville, England.

From that small beginning came what we now know as the Paralympic Games, which have grown dramatically in recent years. The Salt Lake games were the eighth official Paralympic Winter Games, with over 1,000 world class athletes from 36 countries competing in 100 medal events.

While the athletes at the Paralympic Games all have some form of disability, the level of competition is no less intense. Because the games emphasize the participants' athletic achievements rather than their disabilities, spectators quickly forget that these athletes face special challenges and instead focus on the thrill of competition.

I am proud of the accomplishments of my State during the past 2 months. The Paralympic Games were an outstanding partner to the Olympic Games. I congratulate everyone involved, especially the athletes, who showed us that with dedication and commitment, no obstacle is too great to overcome.

LOCAL LAW ENFORCEMENT ACT OF 2001

Mr. SMITH of Oregon. Mr. President, I rise today to speak about hate crimes legislation I introduced with Senator KENNEDY in March of last year. The Local Law Enforcement Act of 2001 would add new categories to current hate crimes legislation sending a signal that violence of any kind is unacceptable in our society.

I would like to describe a terrible crime that occurred February 8, 2002, in Missoula, MT. A lesbian couple and their 22-month-old son were victims of an arson attack. An intruder broke into their home, poured accelerant throughout, and set it on fire while the victims slept. The attack came 4 days after the couple received statewide publicity for suing their employer for same-sex domestic partner benefits.

I believe that government's first duty is to defend its citizens, to defend them against the harms that come out of hate. The Local Law Enforcement Enhancement Act of 2001 is now a symbol that can become substance. I believe that by passing this legislation and changing current law, we can change hearts and minds as well.

ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

SORROW TO SOLACE

• Mr. HELMS. Mr. President, I decided that the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD should use the same heading, "Sorrow To Solace," on what I am about to say to the Senate as the Raleigh (N.E.) News and Observer used on its heart-rending story on March 12 about Christelle Geisler.

Who is Christelle Geisler? For openers, she is a charming student at Raleigh Meredith College whose home is in Hickory, NC, in the western part of

my State. But that does not tell the real story about Christelle, so let me begin at the beginning of my brief relationship with her a few days ago.

James Humes was waiting for me when I arrived at my Senate office in the Dirksen Building. In the hallway were a number of other visitors. James Humes is well known and highly respected in this city. He looks like Winston Churchill, he walks like Winston Churchill, he sounds like Winston Churchill. He served a stint as speech writer for a President of the United States; he is a well-known and highly respected author, his most recent book bearing the title, "Eisenhower and Churchill," with a subtitle reading, "The Partnership That Saved The World."

Jamie Humes and I met Christelle Geisler at the same moment. Christelle giggled quietly in appreciation of Jamie Humes' imitation of Churchill. The three of us had our picture taken together; then Jamie departed with her appealing smile and her good manners. I recall being disappointed that she could not stay longer.

An hour or so later I found a portion of The News and Observer's March 12th story about Christelle. It began with the three-word heading I asked to appear at the top of these remarks in the Senate this morning. The subhead: "A Girl Scout uses what she learned from grief to help other teens".

It is touching story about how Christelle having written a brochure designed to help other teenagers cope with grief. Catawba County, Christelle's home county, has distributed hundreds of copies of the brochure.

At this point, allow me to ask to print in the RECORD the News and Observer story, written by Kelly Starling, to finish the heart-warming story about a young lady who has been honored by the Girl Scouts of America because she wanted to help others in their time of grief.

The article follows:

[From the Raleigh News and Observer, Mar. 12, 2002]

SORROW TO SOLACE

A GIRL SCOUT USES WHAT SHE LEARNED FROM GRIEF TO HELP OTHER TEENS

(By Kelly Starling)

At the sound of the front door closing, her ears always perked up. She listened for the rap of a briefcase hitting the wood floor. Then the patter of shoes that meant Daddy was home. Christelle Geisler would dart from her bedroom, speed down two flights of stairs and into his arms. He kissed her and his two younger daughters. Then he gave the gifts: a coral necklace from the Philippines or dolls from Indonesia, a Japanese kimono.

She was dad's girl.

Phillippe Geisler traveled a lot, looking for new merchandise for his furniture store. He journeyed to foreign countries searching, and attended North Carolina furniture shows. Home in Hickory, Christelle was his buddy. She filed papers at his office. They played tennis. He teased her about practicing violin.

He was on a business trip in Florida one July night when the doorbell rang.

Christelle, then 15, turned away from "Law and Order," got up and squinted through the peephole. Two policemen stood on her porch. They asked for her mother, then ushered her to another room: There had been a car accident, they explained. Police suspected that

Christelle, who had been listening by the open door, howled.

"I don't think I've screamed so loud in my life," Christelle said. "It was just raw emotion."

She recalled that three-year-old memory last week sitting on a wooden bench across from the chapel at Meredith College, where she is a freshman. Gazing at the pond, Christelle wore a distant look. Grief is hard for adults to manage. But when you're a teenager, she said, the voyage can be even lonelier. Everyone thinks they know what you're feeling. There are few resources to help you cope.

The night she learned of her father's crash, Christelle walked around like a zombie, she said. When her boyfriend, Brian Giovannini, called later that night, she was crying.

"She was always daddy's little girl," he said. "She went to him for strength, for advice. When something came up in her life, he was the first person she talked to."

That night, Christelle slept with her mother, Marie-Alix, in bed. Her baby sister, Margot, who would turn 2 in the following week, was asleep in a nearby cradle. In coming days, they picked up her sister Emilie from violin camp. And the ordeal began.

She learned the details of her father's death: His car had malfunctioned, gone over the median strip, landed in oncoming traffic, flipped over. He was 40. She endured the days-long wait for his body to be brought home. Neighbors cleaned their house. They brought food.

"We had ham for about two months," she said.

But Christelle couldn't eat. She kept to herself, stayed away from the phone. The one time she did pick it up, the caller asked about her father's organs; her dad was a donor. She just wished the reality would go away: She had just one parent. No father to help her choose her first car that fall. Or walk her down the aisle one day.

"She couldn't believe it," Giovannini said. "Even after the funeral, it was hard for her to accept."

Life changed. At school that fall, Christelle kept up with homework and her clubs. But in the evening, with time alone to focus on herself, she faced the pain. Christelle cried in her room. Her mother sent her to a church counselor, and to a school counselor. Christelle resented them, feeling that they didn't understand what she was facing. Mail addressed to him arrived. Friends who had been out of town when the crash happened asked about her dad. People kept dredging up his death.

"You have to face it again and again," she said. "What I hated the most was 'I've been there' from people who hadn't even lost a parent yet. How could the tell me it was going to be OK?"

A CHANCE TO HELP

Christelle found solace in going to church each week and becoming more active in youth group. "It had more meaning for me," she said.

Then Christelle came up with the idea of researching teen grief for a Girl Scout project. She had been a Girl Scout since second grade, rising from Brownie to Senior Cadette. She loved the support system the organization gave her, which helped her learn more about herself. She earned all of the pins and completed almost all the projects she needed to earn a Gold Award,

the Scouts' highest honor. The only thing left to do was a research project: Teen grief, she decided, was the perfect subject.

She started working toward the award in January of her senior year, going to public and college libraries. She found scant to nothing on the subject of teen grief. She tried Barnes & Noble: same thing.

She met JoAnn Spees, director of the Council on Adolescents of Catawba County. Spees helped her find enough information to start her research and talked with her about her plan to present it. Christelle decided that her research could benefit more than herself: She would create a teen-to-teen brochure for others struggling with grief.

"She is one of the most capable young women I've ever met," Spees said. "She's very talented, has an incredible joie de vivre and a maturity level beyond her years."

Now, Christelle had a cause, Spees said. After visiting the Council, Christelle left with books and diaries on grief to read at home. She read everywhere, even on the beach. She interviewed classmates who had lost parents to illness. She talked to psychologists, to teachers whose parents had died when they were young. The Gold Award project required 50 hours of research; Christelle, who completed the project that October, logged more than 92.

Her desire to learn was never sated. What were the stages of grief she would go through? What would Emilie and Margot face? Her notebook was the size of a phone book when she finished. Her journal was full of pages expressing her jumble of feelings: denial sometimes, longing the next.

The brochure she created is simple and powerful. A childlike drawing of a heart graces the cover. Inside, there's a road map showing the journey through grief with exits to shock, the "whys" (why them? why me? why now?) and healing. She reminds teens that there's no speed limit or deadline for working through grief. On the back, she offers tips and explains that she is a teen who has lost someone too.

The brochure not only earned Christelle her Gold Award—an honor achieved by about 3,500 Girl Scouts each year—but also led to her being named one of this year's Girl Scout Gold Award Young Women of Distinction—an honor shared by only 10 Scouts. Christelle was chosen because of the impact her brochure had on the community, said Michele Landa, spokeswoman for Girl Scouts of the USA. Catawba County's council on Adolescents has circulated more than 800 copies to school counselors, pediatricians and psychologists. It has been used to help students at a school where three teens died in a car accident. Everyone always wants more, Spees said.

As part of her award, Christelle is in Washington, D.C., this week for a Girl Scout anniversary celebration and gala. She is thought to be the first North Carolina Girl Scout to receive the honor since the award began three years ago, Landa said. Christelle will receive a White House tour and attend a luncheon presided by U.S. Supreme Court Justice Sandra Day O'Connor. She is scheduled to meet influential women such as fashion designer Vera Wang U.S. Senate candidate Elizabeth Dole and Kathryn Sullivan, the first American woman to walk in space.

"Isn't that cool?" Christelle said.

AN EMERGING WOMAN

Doing the research, Spees said, gave her a deeper sense of maturity. She had always been self-assured. But when Christelle spoke at a luncheon put on by the Council on Adolescents last year, Spees saw an emerging woman.

"She was calm, confident," Spees said. "She just had a sense of new control, a peace

that she was conveying. Before it was a cause, but now that the project was finished she found a sense of closure."

At Meredith, Christelle looks young in a pale yellow cardigan and jeans, her smooth skin and dark brown ponytail accented by a red and green striped bow. But she has grown in ways that don't show. She pulls out a memorial card with a grainy black and white picture of her dad, showing his hair parted on the side, his quirky smile.

"I see so much of my sisters in him now," she said, looking at the picture while the chapel bells ring. "His smile is exactly like my little 4-year-old's. I'll never be able to look at her and not see him. Dad is with us in his own way."

It has been three years, but Christelle still returns to her grief from time to time. Thinking about a special moment with her dad can cause the tears to run again. She gains comfort from the silver circle of moons and suns on her finger—the ring he bought her in Charleston, S.C., and that she still wears every day. And she leans on her faith. She has even taught her youngest sister that to talk to Daddy she can pray. Sometimes you have to turn things over to God, she said, and everything will be OK. ●

IN RECOGNITION OF NOTTINGHAM INSURANCE & FINANCIAL SERVICES

● Mr. TORRICELLI. Mr. President, I rise today to recognize Nottingham Insurance & Financial Services which is being honored by the Mercer County Chamber of Commerce with its Outstanding Small Business of the Year.

Nottingham Insurance & Financial Services represents one of the great success stories of family owned businesses. Since its founding in 1917, it has seen 4 generations of family members in successful perpetuation grow and expand its business. Over the years, it has grown from providing property and casualty services to the residents of Central New Jersey to providing group health and life insurance, and financial services.

While also providing valuable insurance and financial services to the residents of Central New Jersey, Nottingham Insurance & Financial Services has also played a vital role in the community. They support numerous youth leagues and teams while also serving on several local board and organizations such as the Hamilton Township Library Board of Trustees and Meals on Wheels of Hamilton.

Nottingham Insurance & Financial Services is a fine example of the positive and vital role that local businesses play within our communities. ●

HONORING SHARON DARLING

● Mr. BUNNING. Mr. President, I rise today to pay tribute to a truly inspiring woman, Ms. Sharon Darling. Ms. Darling is this year's recipient of the prestigious National Humanities Medal. President Bush and First Lady Laura Bush will be personally presenting this award to Ms. Darling at a ceremony to take place next month.

Sharon Darling is the founder and president of the National Center for